

September 16, 2010

Marlene Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554



Re: Notice of *Ex Parte* Presentation
GN Docket No. 10-127 (Broadband Internet Service Framework)
WC Docket No. 10-90 (Connect America Fund)
GN Docket No. 09-191 (Preserving the Open Internet)
CG Docket No. 09-158 (Consumer Information and Disclosure)
GN Docket No. 09-51 (National Broadband Plan)
WC Docket No. 05-337 (High-Cost Universal Service Support)
WC Docket No. 03-109 (Lifeline and Link Up)

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On Wednesday, September 15, 2010, representatives of several social justice and media reform organizations participated in a series of meetings at the Commission to discuss issues raised in the above-captioned dockets. Many of the entities represented by these meeting participants are member organizations of the Media Action Grassroots Network (“MAG-Net”), a nationwide, local-to-local advocacy network of community groups working together for media change in order to end poverty, eliminate racism, and ensure human rights.

Attendees from MAG-Net member groups and allied organizations included Malkia Cyril, Amalia Deloney, Oshen Turman, Karlos Gauna Schmieder, and Betty Yu, all of the Center for Media Justice; Nick Szuberla, representing both Appalshop and Thousand Kites; Khalil Shahyd, Center for Social Inclusion; Steven Renderos, Main Street Project; Andrea Quijada, Media Literacy Project; Traci Morris, Native Public Media; Carlos Pareja, Peoples Production House; Beth McConnell, Chance Williams, and Rachel Colyer, all of the Media and Democracy Coalition; Parul Desai and Bob Williams, both of Consumers Union; and Matt Wood, Media Access Project (collectively, the “MAG-Net Representatives”).

They met separately with Chairman Julius Genachowski and Rick Kaplan, his Chief Counsel and Senior Legal Advisor; Commissioner Mignon Clyburn and Angela Kronenberg, her Acting Chief of Staff and Wireline Legal Advisor; Joel Gurin, Chief of the Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau (“CGB”); and members of the newly established Office of Native Affairs and Policy within CGB, including Geoffrey Blackwell, Dan Rumelt, and Cynthia Bryant.

During the meetings with Chairman Genachowski and with Commissioner Clyburn, the MAG-Net Representatives stressed the importance of concluding the Commission’s proceeding to determine the proper regulatory framework for broadband Internet access service, as well as the need for Open Internet rules and Federal Universal Service Fund (“USF”) reforms grounded in clarified Commission authority to protect broadband consumers and facilitate adoption. To

that end, the MAG-Net Representatives urged the Commission to classify broadband Internet access as a telecommunications service in recognition of the fundamental transmission function that service providers offer to users, and in order to provide a solid legal foundation for implementation of these and other vital National Broadband Plan goals.

The MAG-Net Representatives also reiterated in their separate meetings with Chairman Genachowski and Commissioner Clyburn their commitment to meaningful USF reform, including expansion and transition of the Lifeline and Link Up programs to provide explicit support for broadband adoption by low-income individuals. As the MAG-Net Representatives explained, USF reform is a civil rights and social justice issue, due to the fact that broadband has become an increasingly essential facility for access to economic, educational, and civic engagement opportunities. Expanding broadband availability and improving affordability is especially important for communities of color, low-income and other vulnerable populations, and residents of rural areas, all of whom need Internet access in order to close the gaps that their communities face in obtaining basic resources and expressing their own viewpoints.

In their meeting with Mr. Gurin, the MAG-Net Representatives discussed ongoing CGB efforts to improve consumer disclosure and truth-in-billing requirements for all communications platforms. The MAG-Net Representatives voiced support for, and sought additional information about, the “bill shock” and broadband performance measurement initiatives that CGB has spearheaded. In their conversations with Mr. Blackwell, Mr. Rumelt, and Ms. Bryant, the MAG-Net Representatives discussed the initial plans for the Office of Native Affairs and Policy, and also highlighted work done by various MAG-Net member organizations and allies to expand service availability in Tribal Nations and Native communities – which too often represent the least-served areas in terms of broadband and telephony availability.

We submit this letter to the Secretary’s office today pursuant to Section 1.1206(b) of the Commission’s rules, 47 C.F.R. § 1.1206(b). Please contact the undersigned should you have any questions regarding this submission.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Matthew F. Wood

cc: Chairman Julius Genachowski
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Joel Gurin
Geoffrey Blackwell
Rick Kaplan
Angela Kronenberg
Dan Rumelt
Cynthia Bryant